

## CLAIMS

I/We claim:

- [c1]            1.     A method in a server system for providing information relating to a business application, the method comprising:
- receiving a request to execute a command of a business application along with an indication of user interface elements to return;
- executing the command of the business application to generate data elements;
- generating the user interface elements to be returned; and
- sending a response that includes the generated user interface elements and generated data elements.
- [c2]            2.     The method of claim 1 wherein the request indicates a type of user interface element to return.
- [c3]            3.     The method of claim 1 wherein the request indicates a type of user interface element to not return.
- [c4]            4.     The method of claim 3 wherein the type of user interface element not to return is navigation data.
- [c5]            5.     The method of claim 1 wherein the request includes a "SWEDataOnly" argument.
- [c6]            6.     The method of claim 1 wherein the request includes a "SWEEExclude" argument.

[c7]           7.     The method of claim 1 wherein the request is to execute a predefined query that was identified to the client system when a request for a list a predefined queries was received from the client system.

[c8]           8.     A method in a server system for providing information relating to a business application, the method comprising:  
                providing transforms for transforming output of the business application,  
                    each transform having a name;  
                receiving from a client system a request to execute a command of a business application, the request optionally indicating the name of a transform to be applied to the output of the business application;  
                executing the command of the business application to generate output;  
                when the request indicates the name of a transform,  
                    applying the provided transform with the indicated name to the generated output to generate transformed output; and  
                    sending to the client system the transformed output; and  
                when the request does not indicate the name of a transform, sending to the client system the generated output.

[c9]           9.     The method of claim 8 wherein the generated output is in XML format and the provided transforms are XSLT stylesheets.

[c10]          10.    The method of claim 8 wherein the request includes a "SWEXslStyleSheet" argument.

[c11]          11.    A method in a server system for providing information relating to a business application, the method comprising:  
                providing a default format for output of the business application;  
                receiving from a client system a request to execute a command of a business application, the request optionally indicating a user agent

format or a client-specified format for the output of the business application;  
selecting a format giving preference in the following order: the client-specified format, the user-agent format, and the default format;  
executing the command of the business application to generate output; and  
sending to the client system the generated output in the selected format.

[c12]           12.    The method of claim 11 wherein the user-agent format is selected over the default format in accordance with a predefined preference of formats.

[c13]           13.    The method of claim 11 wherein the user-agent format is based on type of user agent specified in the request.

[c14]           14.    The method of claim 13 wherein the type of user agent specifies a type of browser.

[c15]           15.    The method of claim 11 wherein the formats are a markup language.

[c16]           16.    The method of claim 15 wherein one of the formats is HTML.

[c17]           17.    The method of claim 15 wherein one of the formats is XML.

[c18]           18.    The method of claim 15 wherein one of the formats is WML.

[c19]           19.    The method of claim 11 wherein the request includes a "SWESetMarkup" argument that specifies the client-specified format.

- [c20]            20.    A computer-readable medium containing a data structure defining an inbound command to a web server, the data structure comprising:
- an execute element having a path attribute indicating a location of an object manager;
  - a command element nested within the execute element and having a value attribute indicating a name of a command to execute;
  - one or more argument elements nested within the command element, each argument element having a name attribute indicating a name of an argument for the named command, the one or more argument elements being from a set of argument elements including an argument element for indicating a response markup format, an argument element for indicating whether the response should include user interface elements, and an arguments element identifying a transform to be applied to output.
- [c21]            21.    The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the data structure is an XML document.
- [c22]            22.    The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein zero or more occurrences of the information element are nested within the execute element.
- [c23]            23.    The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein only one command element is nested within the execute element.
- [c24]            24.    A computer-readable medium containing a data structure defining an outbound response sent by a web server, the data structure comprising:
- an application element having a name attribute;
  - a navigation element nested within the application element, having a name attribute, and having sub-elements from a set including a menu

element, tool bar element, screen bar element, thread bar element, view bar element, and page item element; and

one or more elements from the set of elements including a screen element, an applet element, a form element, and a predefined query bar element, the one or more elements being nested within the application element and each having a name attribute.

[c25] 25. A method in a server system for providing information relating to a business application, the method comprising:

receiving from a client system a request to execute a command of a business application, the request indicating what user interface elements to return along with the data elements as results of the execution;

executing the command of the business application to generate the data elements;

when the request indicates to return some user interface elements,

generating the user interface elements to be returned; and

sending to the client system a response that includes the generated user interface elements and the generated data elements; and

when the request indicates to not return user interface elements, sending to the client system a response that includes the generated data elements without user interface elements.

[c26] 26. The method of claim 25 wherein the request indicates a type of user interface element to return.

[c27] 27. The method of claim 25 wherein the request indicates a type of user interface element to not return.

- [c28]            28.    The method of claim 27 wherein the type of user interface element not to return is navigation data.
- [c29]            29.    The method of claim 25 wherein the request includes a "SWEDataOnly" argument.
- [c30]            30.    The method of claim 25 wherein the request includes a "SWEExclude" argument.
- [c31]            31.    The method of claim 25 wherein the request is to execute a predefined query that was identified to the client system when a request for a list a predefined queries was received from the client system.